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ACTION FA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8212
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CINCPAC
C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 10579
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN KS US
SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF PARK TONGSUN CASE
SUMMARY: DECEMBER 15 COVERAGE FOCUSSED ON DEC. 14 FONMIN BRIEFING TO NATL ASSEMBLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WITH DIVERSE SPECULATION ON UNRESOLVED ISSUES. PRESS ALSO CARRIED WASHINGTON DATELINED ARTICLE ON LAWYER HUNDLEY'S REMARKS. HANKUK ILBO REPORTED "NEW US DEMAND." END SUMMARY.
1. FONMIN'S CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING TO NATL ASSEMBLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WAS FRONTPAGED IN PRESS DECEMBER 15. PAPERS QUOTED FONMIN AS SAYING THAT FIVE POINTS HAD BEEN AGREED TO IN PARK CASE NEGOTIATIONS: 1) MUTUAL PROSECUTION ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT; 2) CANCELLATION OF INDICTMENT AGAINST PARK -- TO BE CONFIRMED BY PARK'S LAWYER AND KOREAN OFFICIAL; 3) JOINT INVESTIGATION OF PARK IN KOREA UNDER KOREAN LAW; 4) PARK TO TESTIFY IN US COURT WHEN AMERICANS ARE TRIED; 5) PARK TO RETURN TO ROK AFTER EACH TRIP TO US TO TESTIFY. MOST PAPERS REPORTED THAT AREA OF DISAGREEMENT CONCERNS

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ROK DEMAND FOR RIGHT TO BRING PARK BACK IF AND WHEN AGREEMENT IS VIOLATED EVEN IF PARK CHANGES HIS MIND AND WANTS TO STAY IN US. US REPORTEDLY CLAIMS THAT AFTER HE GOES TO US, IT CANNOT INTERFERE IF PARK DECIDES HE WANTS TO STAY.
2. CHOSON ILBO IN A SOMEWHAT DIVERGENT REPORT LISTED THREE AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT: 1) ROK WAS SAID TO WANT IMMEDIATE CANCELLATION OF INDICTMENT, WHILE US WANTED CANCELLATION AFTER COURT PROCEEDINGS; 2) ROK WAS SAID TO WANT PARK'S TESTIMONY TO BE LIMITED TO INITIAL COURT PROCEEDINGS, WHILE US OPPOSED THIS; 3) FONMIN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT NEGOTIATION DEALS ONLY WITH PARK'S TESTIMONY BEFORE COURT, AND THAT "IF PARK OFFERS EXTENSIVE TESTIMONY IN US COURT, HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESS WOULD BE SOLVED AUTOMATICALLY."
3. BOTH PAPERS REPORTED THAT FONMIN EXPECTS AGREEMENT BY END OF 1977. SEOUL SHINMUN REPORTED THAT US UNWILLINGNESS TO DROP INDICTMENT IMMEDIATELY WAS AN APPARENT EFFORT TO PRESSURE PARK INTO TELLING THE TRUTH. FURTHER

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REPORTED THAT ROK HAD CONCEDED TO US POSITION.
4. KYONGHYANG SHINMUN REPORTED THAT ROK HAD ASKED US GOVT FOR FINAL REPLY ON "ONE IMPORTANT ISSUE" EARLY IN DECEMBER. AND RECEIVED A REPLY DEC 14 WHICH LEFT SOME ITEMS UNRESOLVED. US REPORTEDLY DESIRED PROMPT RESPONSE, BUT AN OFFICIAL WAS QUOTED THAT SINCE THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM IS SO COMPLICATED, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO REPLY.
5. KOREAN PRESS CARRIED DECEMBER 13 UPI WASHINGTON INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM HUNDLEY, PARK'S LAWYER. HUNDLEY REPORTEDLY WILL SEEK TIGHT SECRECY FOR PROSPECTIVE PARK TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESS. HUNDLEY IS SAID
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TO HAVE HAD A PHONE CONVERSATION WITH PARK, IN WHICH PARK EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO TESTIFY IN TRIALS RELATED TO ROK INFLUENCE-BUYING SCANDAL. SEOUL SHINMUN REPORTS INCLUDED REFERENCE TO PARK'S TESTIMONY IN US ON OR ABOUT JAN 2 OR 3.
6. HANKUK ILBO FRONTPAGED WASH CORRESPONDENT REPORT THAT US HAD MADE "NEW DEMAND" THAT WRITTEN STATEMENT SIGNED BY PARK PLEDGING TO GO TO US MUST PRECEDE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF JOINT AGREEMENT. ROK POSITION REPORTED TO BE THAT MUTUAL PROSECUTION ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT MUST BE CONCLUDED FIRST, FOLLOWED BY INTERVIEW OF PARK TO DETERMINE HIS INTENTIONS.
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